

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 08171 171843Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /080 W
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R 171655Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8830
INFO AMCONSUL CURACAO
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 8171

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, VA, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER RESTATES TRADITIONAL NON-
INTERVENTION POLICY REGARDING NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

REF: CURACAO 0615, CURACAO 600, MUNRO-HANSON LETTER

1. VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI TOLD PRESS
AUGUST 16 THAT IN REGARD TO NETHERLANDS
ANTILLES, "VENEZUELA MAINTAINS POSITION IN INTER-
NATIONAL AFFAIRS WHICH OBEYS THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-
INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER PEOPLES."
RESPONSE FOLLOWED QUESTION BY PRESS CONCERNING STATE-
MENT PREVIOUS DAY BY NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER
WILLIAM GOAY FORTMAN THAT HOLLAND AND VENEZUELA ARE
OPPOSED TO "INDEPENDENCE OF THE ISLAND OF ARUBA."

2. EL NACIONAL OF AUGUST 19 CARRIES FULL PAGE
INTERVIEW BY ITS REPORTERS WITH ARUBA MEP LEADER
BETICO CROES IN WHICH CROES STATES, INTER ALIA, THAT
ARUBA NEEDS HELP FROM WHEREVER IT CAN OBTAIN IT
NOTWITHSTANDING THE IDEOLOGY OR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT
INVOLVED; THAT VENEZUELA THROUGH COMMON CULTURE AND
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ECONOMIC EXCHANGE SHOLD DEFEND ARUBAN INDEPENDENCE
CAUSE; THAT CROES WOULD POSSIBLY ACCEPT ASSOCIATED
STATE STATUS WITH VENEZUELA; THAT HE HOPES TO MEET
WITH VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVE; AND THAT
HE HAS SENT HIS WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN TO CARACAS
OUT OF FEAR FOR THEIR SAFETY.

3. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI TOLD
AMBASSADOR AUGUST 15 THAT GOV IS CONCERNED ABOUT
SITUATION IN ARUBA. CONSALVI NOTED, IN PARTICULAR,
THAT CROES LETTER TO HIM (CURACAO 0600) HAD PROTESTED
TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS FROM CURACAO TO ARUBA
ABOARD A VENEZUELAN FERRY. FACT OF PROXIMITY,
CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC TIES (ARUBA REFINES SOME
VENEZUELAN CRUDE) WITH VENEZUELA MAKES ARUBA SITUATION
ONE OF HIGH PRIORITY FOR GOV. GOV PUTS ITS MARINES ON
ALERT AND ENGAGED IN CONTINGENCY PLANNING DURING
JUNE 17 ELECTIONS (SEE REF LETTER) WE ARE CONVINCED THAT
GOV WOULD TAKE NO ACTION WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATIONS
WITH GON, AND THAT SUCH EVENTUALITY IN ANY CASE IS
QUITE UNLIKELY. HOWEVER, GOV WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR
SITUATION CLOSELY.
VAKY

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NNN

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